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Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: comprehensive implementation and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

A global call for concrete action for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.52/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 12 and 27 of draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.52/Rev.1 the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to establish a permanent forum on people of African descent which will serve as a consultation mechanism for People of African Descent and other interested stakeholders as a platform for improving the quality of life and livelihoods of People of African Descent and to contribute to elaborate a United Nations declaration, which is the first step towards a legally binding instrument, on the promotion of and full respect for human rights of people of African descent; and that the modalities, format, substantive and procedural aspects of the permanent forum will be concluded by Member States and Observer States, with further consultations with People of African Descent;

(b) Request the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Human Rights Council to continue to convene annual commemorative meetings of

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the Assembly and the Council during the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, with the appropriate focus and themes, and to hold a debate on the mitigation and countering of rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies, with the participation of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this context encourages the participation of eminent personalities active in the struggle against racial discrimination, Member States and civil society organizations in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Assembly and the Council, respectively.

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the periods 2018–2019 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

2. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, programme 20, Human rights, programme 24 Public information, and programme 25 Management and support services, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the periods 2018–2019.

3. They also relate to section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section 24, Human rights, Section 28, Public information, and Section 29F, Administration, Geneva, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

4. Pursuant to the requests contained in operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, it is envisaged that the following activities would be conducted:

(a) A one-day consultation meeting in 2019 to be held in Geneva, prior to the first meeting of the permanent forum on people of African descent, consisting of two sessions with interpretation in all six languages on the modalities of the permanent forum, and involving 25 members of civil society of people of African descent from five different regions, one representative of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, one Special Rapporteur, one representative of the Group of Independent Eminent Experts, and one representative of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

(b) An annual meeting of the permanent forum on people of African descent for three working days with interpretation in all six languages, alternating annually between Geneva and New York, starting with the first meeting in Geneva in 2019.

5. The above activities would constitute an addition to the meetings workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management starting in 2019.

6. Furthermore, the request for documentation contained in operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution would constitute an addition to the documentation workload of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, as follows:

(a) For the one-day consultation meeting, two pre-session documents, one in-session document, and one post-session document in 2019;

(b) For the annual meeting of the permanent forum, two pre-session documents and one post-session documents, starting in 2019.

7. With regard to operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, it would be necessary to redesign and maintain the website currently dedicated to the International Decade for People of African Descent, which will serve as a platform to support the permanent forum on people of African descent.

8. The implementation of operative paragraph 27 of the draft resolution would include a debate in 2019, with the participation of three eminent personalities, on the mitigation of rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies, to take place in New York during the General Assembly.

IV. Estimated resource requirements

A. Conference-servicing requirements

Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

9. Pursuant to operative paragraph 12, the following resources would be required:

(a) One-time resources in 2019 in the amount of $40,900 to provide for conference services for the one-day consultation meeting on the modalities of the permanent forum on people of African descent;

(b) Recurrent resources in the amount of $85,600 in odd years, starting in 2019, and $79,700 in even years, starting in 2020, to provide for conference services for the annual meetings of the permanent forum on people of African descent for three working days each year, alternating between Geneva and New York starting with the first meeting in Geneva in 2019. Existing provisions in the amount of $8,900 is included in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

Section 29F, Administration, Geneva

10. With regard to implementation of operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, resource requirements in the amount of $2,100 would arise biennially, starting 2019, related to sound technician and recording services for the permanent forum on people of African descent held in Geneva, for which existing provision is already included in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. In addition, one-time additional requirements of $700 would be needed in 2019 related to sound technician and recording services during the consultation meeting.

B. Non-conference-servicing requirements

Section 24, Human rights

Posts

11. To implement the requests contained in operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, it is estimated that additional post resources will be required for the establishment of 1 new established post, Human Rights Officer (P-4), effective 1 January 2019, to serve as the secretary of the permanent forum on people of African descent ($102,000). As Secretary to the Forum, the incumbent would:

(a) Ensure the overall guidance, organisation and coordination of the activities of the permanent forum with the view to providing a platform for improving the quality of life and livelihoods for people of African descent;

(b) Substantively contribute to the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent,

including by providing expert advice and recommendations aimed at addressing all scourges of racism confronted by people of African descent in the diaspora;

(c) Identify and analyse best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives for the further implementation of the provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action relevant to people of African descent;

(d) Prepare and disseminate information on issues related to people of African descent;

(e) Contribute to raising awareness and promote the integration and coordination of activities relating to people of African descent within the United Nations system.

General temporary assistance

12. To implement the requests contained in operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, General temporary assistance at the General Service (Other level) for six months would be required annually to assist with the organisation of the annual permanent forum on people of African descent and with the initial one-day consultation ($62,100).

Travel of representatives and travel of participants

13. Pursuant to paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, the following additional resources would also be required:

(a) One-time resources in the amount of $116,200 would be needed, comprising travel of participants ($93,900) and travel of representatives ($22,300), for the one-day consultation meeting in 2019 on the modalities of the permanent forum on people of African descent, including 25 members of civil society of people of African descent from five different regions, one Special Rapporteur, one representative of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, one representative of the Group of Independent Eminent Experts and one representative of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;

(b) Annual requirements would arise in the amount of $161,900, comprising travel of participants ($135,300) and travel of representatives ($26,600), to the annual permanent forum on people of African descent, including 25 members of civil society of people of African descent from different regions, one Independent Eminent Expert and one representative of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, in addition to the participation of 5 experts, one Special Rapporteur and one member of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination that was previously approved under resolution 69/16. A provision of $35,900 already exists in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 in relation to resolution 69/16, thus, the additional resource requirements for the biennium 2018–2019 would be $126,000.

14. To implement the request contained in operative paragraph 27 of the draft resolution, additional one-time requirements would be required for travel of three eminent personalities to participate in the debate in relation to the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in New York during the General Assembly ($17,400).

Travel of staff

15. To implement the request contained in operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, travel of two staff members ($11,300) from Geneva to New York would be needed on a biennial basis for the meeting of the permanent forum on people of

African descent in New York, for six days, including three days for meeting preparation and three days for the Forum (starting in 2020 and for every even year thereafter).

Section 28, Public information

16. Pursuant to operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, it would be necessary to implement redesign and revamping of the website, including necessary coding, updating the site map, menus and layouts, and curating and uploading content such as text, links and multimedia, for an estimated one-time provision of $21,000. Additionally, a recurrent provision of $6,700 would be required annually for the maintenance of the website in six languages, for which provision already exists in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 related to General Assembly resolution 69/16.

17. Therefore, to implement the requests contained in paragraphs 12 and 27 of the draft resolution, additional requirements in the amount of $563,000 would arise, including $117,600 ($76,700 recurrent and $40,900 non-recurrent) under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $423,700 ($290,100 recurrent and $133,600 non-recurrent) under section 21, Human rights, $21,000 (non-recurrent) under section 28, Public information, and $700 (non-recurrent) under section 29F Administration, Geneva, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019. The details of these additional requirements are provided in the table below.

Table
Resource requirements
(United States dollars)

	Total requirements for 2019	*Included in the 2018–2019 budget*	*Additional requirements for 2018–2019 budget*	*Requirements for 2020 and every even year thereafter*	*Requirements for 2021 and every odd year thereafter*
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management					
Simultaneous interpretation	65 300	8 900	56 400	50 400	52 800
Pre-session documentation	17 400	–	17 400	3 300	3 700
In-session documentation	400	–	400	–	–
Post-session documentation	43 400	–	43 400	26 000	29 100
Subtotal, section 2	**126 500**	**8 900**	**117 600**	**79 700**	**85 600**
Section 24, Human rights					
Posts	102 000	–	102 000	180 400[a]	180 400
General temporary assistance	62 100	–	62 100	62 100	62 100
Travel of representatives, annual permanent forum on people of African descent	26 600	13 300	13 300	26 600	26 600
Travel of representatives, consultation meeting	22 300	–	22 300	–	–
Travel of representatives, debate in Geneva	17 400	–	17 400	–	–
Travel of staff to New York (every second year, starting 2020)	–	–	–	11 300	–

	Total requirements for 2019	*Included in the 2018–2019 budget*	*Additional requirements for 2018–2019 budget*	*Requirements for 2020 and every even year thereafter*	*Requirements for 2021 and every odd year thereafter*
Grants and contributions/travel of meeting participants, annual permanent forum on people of African descent	135 300	22 600	112 700	135 300	135 300
Grants and contributions/travel of meeting participants, consultation meeting	93 900	–	93 900	–	–
Subtotal, section 24	**459 600**	**35 900**	**423 700**	**415 700**	**404 400**
Section 28, Public information					
Website redesign (one-time)	21 000	–	21 000	–	–
Website maintenance (recurrent)	6 700	6 700	–	6 700	6 700
Subtotal, section 28	**27 700**	**6 700**	**21 000**	**6 700**	**6 700**
Section 29F, Administration, Geneva					
Sound technical and recording services, annual permanent forum on people of African descent	2 100	2 100	–	2 100	2 100
Sound technical and recording services, consultation meeting	700	–	700	–	–
Subtotal, section 29F	**2 800**	**2 100**	**700**	**2 100**	**2 100**
Total	**616 600**	**53,600**	**563 000**	**504 200**	**498 800**

[a] Taking into account the technical adjustment for the full annual provision for the new P-4 post established in 2019.

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2018–2019

18. The programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 includes existing provisions related to the annual three-day forum for people of African descent under General Assembly resolution 69/16 in the amount of $53,600, comprising $8,900 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $35,900 under section 24, Human Rights, $6,700 under section 28, Public information, and $2,100 under Section 29F, Administration, Geneva.

19. With respect to the additional requirements for the biennium 2018–2019, it is not possible at present to identify activities within the relevant sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that additional resources in the amount of $563,000 ($366,800 recurrent and $196,200 non-recurrent) be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019.

20. The resource requirements related to the next budget periods, as detailed in the table above, would be included in the proposed programme budgets for the respective years.

VI. Contingency fund

21. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to

accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

VII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

22. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/73/L.52/Rev.1, additional resource requirements in the amount of $563,000 ($366,800 recurrent and $196,200 non-recurrent) would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, including $117,600 ($76,700 recurrent and $40,900 non-recurrent) under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, $423,700 ($290,100 recurrent and $133,600 non-recurrent) under section 24, Human rights, $21,000 (non-recurrent) under section 28, Public information, and $700 (non-recurrent) under section 29F Administration, Geneva. The amount of $563,000 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019 to be approved by the General Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.**

23. **The General Assembly would also be requested to approve the establishment of 1 P-4 post under section 24, Human rights, effective 1 January 2019.**

24. **In addition, an amount of $11,000 would also be required under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**